

## Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 220748Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9009

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T LISBON 268

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PO, CU, VT

SUBJECT: LUNT-PERALTA EXCHANGE

REF: ROME 770

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED SUBJECT CASE WITH LUNT ATTORNEY WAINWRIGHT JANUARY 18. WAINWRIGHT EXPLAINED HIS EFFORTS ON BEHALF LUNT'S FAMILY, AND INVOLVEMENT OF BELGIANS AND VATICAN. EMBOFFS AND ATTORNEY AGREED THAT FOR PORTUGAL TO ACCEPT IDEA OF EXCHANGE, THERE MUST BE SOME CLEAR ADVANTAGE FOR PORTUGAL IN THE ARRANGEMENT. WE ALSO AGREED THAT GIVEN THE NATURE OF PORTUGUESE-CUBAN RELATIONS, ADVANTAGE TO PORTUGAL COULD ALMOST ONLY COME FROM AN IMPROVED PUBLIC IMAGE.

2. SAME DAY DCM CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS FREITAS CRUZ. DCM REVIEWED WITH FREITAS CRUZ DISCUSSION HE HAD ON SUBJECT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DECEMBER 31, NOTING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HIMSELF SAW NO PROSPECT THE CUBANS WOULD ADMIT THEY HAD SENT PERALTA AND OTHERS TO FIGHT WITH PAIGC OR THAT THEY WOULD PROMISE SEND NO MORE "PERALTAS". INDEED, EVEN IF SUCH A PROMISE WERE OFRTHCOMING FROM THE CUBANS, THEY COULD EASILY BREAK IT. CONSEQUENTLY THERE SEEMED TO BE NO TANGIBLE

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ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED BY PORTUGAL IN EITHER KEEPING

OR RELEASING PERALTA. HOWEVER IT WOULD BE DISTINCTLY TO PORTUGAL'S ADVANTAGE TO IMPROVE ITS PUBLIC IMAGE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THIS COULD WELL OCCUR IF IT WERE TO BECOME KNOWN THAT PORTUGAL HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN SECURING LUNT'S RELEASE. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST IN THE LUNT CASE, INCLUDING CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST, AND BY MAKING THIS HUMANITARIAN GESTURE PORTUGAL MIGHT WELL WIN FOR ITSELF SOME INFLUENTIAL FRIENDS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES. FREILAS CRUZ ACKNOWLEDGED THE VALIDITY OF THE ARGUMENT AND AGREED TO PASS IT "UPSTAIRS", NOTING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF HAD SHOWN INTEREST IN THE PERALTA CASE.

3. MEANWHILE, WAINWRIGHT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE BELGIUM AMBASSADOR AND IS PRESENTING HIM WITH A MEMORANDUM SUBSTANTIALLY OUTLINING THE PRESENTATION MADE TO FREITAS CRUZ. BELGIUM AMBASSADOR PLANS TO RAISE SUBJECT WITH PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING ESPECIALLY FORMER GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN PORTUGUESE GUINEA AND WHO NOW VICE-CHIEF OF STAFF OF ARMED FORCES, GENERAL ANTONIO SPINOLA.  
SROTT

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NNN

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**TAGS:** CASC, PO, CU, VT  
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